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IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

APPLICANT: Fang-Chuan Lin)
SERIAL NO: 10/790,354) Group Art Unit: 3742
FILED: March 1, 2004) Examiner: Sang Yeop Paik
TITLE: COOKING DEVICE WITH A WARMING COMPARTMENT

AMENDED CLAIMS

1. (currently amended) A cooking device, comprising:

a base plate;

a cooking plate mounted on and cooperating with said base plate to define a receiving space therebetween and formed with at least a drain hole in fluid communication with said receiving space; and

a partition unit mounted on said base plate within said receiving space and dividing said receiving space into a warming compartment that is adapted to receive food therein so as to warm the food during cooking, and an oil compartment that is isolated from said warming compartment and that is adapted to receive oil, which is formed on said cooking plate as a result of cooking and which is drained through said drain hole in said cooking plate;

wherein said partition unit is drawable from said receiving space and includes a food tray and an oil-receiving tray, each of which has a base wall and a peripheral wall extending transversely from said base wall to confine a respective one of said warming compartment and said oil compartment; and

wherein said food tray is formed with a handle that extends outwardly of said receiving space therefrom.

2. (cancelled)

3. (currently amended) The cooking device of ~~Claim 2~~Claim 1, wherein said base plate is formed with a retaining recess that receives fittingly said base wall of said food tray.

4. (canceled)

5. (currently amended) The cooking device of ~~Claim 2~~Claim 1, wherein said base wall of said oil-receiving tray has a central portion that protrudes outwardly and transversely therefrom, said base plate being formed with a retaining recess that receives fittingly said central portion of said base wall of said oil-receiving tray.

6. (original) The cooking device of Claim 5, wherein said oil-receiving tray is formed with a handle that extends outwardly of said receiving space therefrom.

7. (canceled)

8. (canceled)

9. (original) The cooking device of Claim 1, wherein said cooking plate has a heating member embedded therein.

10. (original) The cooking device of Claim 1, wherein said cooking plate defines a cooking surface and is formed with a plurality of ribs that project from said cooking surface in said transverse direction.

11. (canceled)

12. (canceled)

13. (currently amended) The cooking device of ~~Claim 2~~Claim 1, wherein said base plate has two opposite sides, each of which is formed with a shoulder, said base wall of said food tray having two

opposite sides, each of which is formed with a step that is seated on said shoulder of a respective one of said sides of said base plate.

14. (currently amended) The cooking device of ~~Claim 2~~Claim 1, wherein said cooking plate defines a cooking surface, said base plate being formed with a stage that projects therefrom into said receiving space in a transverse direction relative to said cooking surface and that cooperates with said base plate to define a mounting recess therebetween for receiving said base wall of said food tray, said base wall of said oil-receiving tray having a bottom end that is formed with a tray retaining recess, said stage having a top end that is received fittingly in said tray retaining recess in said bottom end of said base wall of said oil-receiving tray.

15. (new) A cooking device, comprising:

- a base plate;

- a cooking plate mounted on and cooperating with said base plate to define a receiving space therebetween and formed with at least a drain hole in fluid communication with said receiving space; and

- a partition unit mounted on said base plate within said receiving space and dividing said receiving space into a warming compartment that is adapted to receive food therein so as to warm the food during cooking, and an oil compartment that is isolated from said warming compartment and that is adapted to receive oil, which is formed on said cooking plate as a result of cooking and which is drained through said drain hole in said cooking plate;

- wherein said cooking plate defines a cooking surface, said cooking device further comprising a stand including a plurality of posts, each of which is connected to and extends from said base

plate in a transverse direction relative to said cooking surface, and each of which has a top end face formed with a retaining groove, said cooking plate having two opposite ends and two opposite lugs extending oppositely and respectively from said ends, each of said lugs being formed with a plurality of retaining protrusions that protrude therefrom in said transverse direction and that extend into and that engage said retaining grooves in the respective ones of said posts.

16. (new) A cooking device, comprising:

a base plate;

a cooking plate mounted on and cooperating with said base plate to define a receiving space therebetween and formed with at least a drain hole in fluid communication with said receiving space; and

a partition unit mounted on said base plate within said receiving space and dividing said receiving space into a warming compartment that is adapted to receive food therein so as to warm the food during cooking, and an oil compartment that is isolated from said warming compartment and that is adapted to receive oil, which is formed on said cooking plate as a result of cooking and which is drained through said drain hole in said cooking plate;

wherein said cooking plate defines a cooking surface, said base plate having two opposite end walls that extend in a transverse direction relative to said cooking surface, said cooking device further comprising a stand including a plurality of posts that are connected to said base plate and that extend in said transverse direction, and two opposite U-shaped connecting bars, each of which interconnects an adjacent pair of said posts and each of which

defines an elongated retaining trough, said end walls of said base plate extending into and engaging respectively said troughs in said connecting bars.

17. (new) A cooking device, comprising:

a base plate;

a cooking plate mounted on and cooperating with said base plate to define a receiving space therebetween and formed with at least a drain hole in fluid communication with said receiving space; and

a partition unit mounted on said base plate within said receiving space and dividing said receiving space into a warming compartment that is adapted to receive food therein so as to warm the food during cooking, and an oil compartment that is isolated from said warming compartment and that is adapted to receive oil, which is formed on said cooking plate as a result of cooking and which is drained through said drain hole in said cooking plate;

wherein said receiving space defines a space height extending from said base plate to said cooking plate, said peripheral wall of each of said food tray and said oil-receiving tray having a top end, said base wall of each of said food tray and oil-receiving tray having a bottom end, each of said food tray and said oil-receiving tray defining a tray height extending from said bottom end of said base wall to said top end of said peripheral wall, said space height being larger than said tray height so as to permit removal of said food tray and said oil-receiving tray from said base plate; and

wherein said base plate is formed with a retaining recess that receives fittingly said base wall of said food tray, said food tray being formed with a handle that extends outwardly of said receiving

space, said handle being formed with a stopper that extends in said transverse direction, that is disposed outwardly of said receiving space, and that has a height larger than said space height of said receiving space so as to prevent said handle from extending fully and undesirably into said receiving space.